

**PATENT****REMARKS**

Claims 8-14 are currently pending in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above claim amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,662,119 to Brennen et al. The Examiner also rejected claims 8, 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,389,320 to Pianca and claims 8, 9, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,571,161 to Starksen and claims 8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,272,873 to Mobin-Uddin. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claim 8 recites a lead implant system comprised in part by a guide wire that is slidably receivable through a longitudinally extending passage of a stylet, the combined stylet and guide wire being configured for slidable introduction into an elongated tubular lead body, and wherein the guide wire is configured for extension beyond a distal end of the stylet. (Underlining added for emphasis only). Applicants respectfully submit that cited references do not disclose or suggest the recited claim elements.

For example, in Brennan et al. the pull wire is fixedly attached to the distal end of the stylet which allows the pull wire to mechanically cooperate with the distal tip of the stylet to introduce a radius of curvature into the stylet through retraction of the pull wire. (Brennen et al., FIG. 1, col. 6, lines 18-21 and lines 25-32). Brennan et al. do not however disclose or suggest a guide wire that is configured for extension beyond a distal end of the stylet as recited in claim 8 of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is novel and non-obvious over Brennan et al and is therefore allowable. Applicants further submit that claim 9 that depends from claim 8 is allowable as is claim 8 and for additional limitations recited therein.

Similarly, Pianca discloses an implantable stimulation lead that is readily adaptable for placement by a stylet or a guide wire. The lead of Pianca therefore

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includes a removable plug coupled into a through bore. During placement with a stylet the plug engages the stylet for guiding the lead to a desired position. During placement with a guide wire, the plug is removed and the guide wire is extended through the distal end of the lead to the desired location and the lead is then advanced over the guide wire. Pianca does not however disclose or in any way suggest a stylet having a longitudinal passage for accepting a guide wire there through. Rather, what the Examiner points to as being a stylet, namely element 28 in FIG. 3 is simply a "conductor in the form of a lead coil 28, of the type well known in the art" that "connects the electrode to the connector." (Pianca, col. 4, lines 1-3).

Accordingly applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is novel and non-obvious over Pianca and is therefore allowable. Applicants further submit that claims 9 and 14 that depend from claim 8 are allowable as is claim 8 and for additional limitations recited therein.

In addition, Starksen discloses a method for implanting a lead that utilizes a guide catheter with a stylet inserted through a center lumen that is together introduced over a guide wire (see FIG. 8b) which had previously been positioned in the right atrium near the inferior vena cava. Starksen further discloses that the stylet facilitates introduction of the guide catheter over the guide wire through the percutaneous access tract into the subclavian vein allowing the guide catheter to then be advanced until its distal end enters the right atrium. Starksen further discloses that after the distal end of the guide catheter is properly positioned, the guide wire is removed and a self-anchoring electrical lead is introduced through the guide catheter so that an anchor at its distal end can be engaged against and into the endocardium. (Starksen, col. 5, lines 45-60).

Thus, the stylet and guide wire of Starksen is used to facilitate introduction of a guide catheter which is then used to implant an electrical lead. Starksen does not however disclose or suggest a combined stylet and guide wire being configured for slidable introduction into an elongated tubular lead body (i.e. the body of the electrical lead for the implantable stimulation device) as recited in claim 8 of the present application. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is novel and non-obvious over Starksen and is therefore allowable. Applicants further submit that claims

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9, 12 and 14 that depend from claim 8, are allowable as is claim 8 and for additional limitations recited therein.

Similarly, Mobin-Uddin discloses an embolus trap that is implanted using a catheter assembly having a flexible tube 29 coupled between a tubular capsule and a fitting with a side port for injection purposes. The catheter of Mobin-Uddin is maneuvered into a desired location by a combine style and guide wire. The catheter is then used to place the embolus trap. Mobin-Uddin does not however disclose or in any way suggest a combined stylet and guide wire being configured for slidable introduction into an elongated tubular lead body (i.e. the body of the lead for the implantable stimulation device) as recited in claim 8 of the present application. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is novel and non-obvious over Starksen and is therefore allowable. Applicants further submit that claim 14 that depends from claim 8, is allowable as is claim 8 and for additional limitations recited therein.

The Examiner rejected claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pianca in view of R.E. 33,911 to Samson et al. In view of the foregoing analysis of independent claim 8 in view of Pianca, Applicants believe that the rejection of dependent claims 10-11 under §103 is rendered moot as claim 10-11 depend from allowable independent claim 8.

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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